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The Legal Minute

a St. Mary's School of Law student publication, Fall 2013

The Red Mass: A Celebration of Law and Faith

Seth B. Sullivan, 2L
Contributing Writer

If you have not had a chance to attend San Antonio's annual celebration of the Red Mass, you are truly missing out on one of San Antonio's treasured traditions.

This year's 61st celebration will be held on Thursday, October 24, 2013, at 6 p.m. in the San Fernando Cathedral. Archbishop Gustavo García-Siller, M.Sp.S., is presiding, The Rev. Martin Leopold will serve as homilist, and the Hon. Larry Noll, 408th Bexar County Civil District Court, will offer reflections.

Clem Vettters, an attendee of last year's celebration and second-year law student at St. Mary's School of Law, stated, "Red Mass was a

great experience. Getting to meet judges, local attorneys, members of the community, clergy, professors and fellow students was a rare opportunity. The beautiful San Fernando Cathedral is a really intriguing place, and the reception was a blast. Too bad Red Mass is only once a year!"

The Red Mass was first celebrated in the Cathedral of Paris in 1245 to officially open the court term, and it continued to spread throughout many European countries. The tradition's U.S. beginnings were in New York in 1928. Under the auspices of the Archdiocese, St. Mary's School of Law and the Catholic Lawyers Guild began the tradition here in San Antonio 61 years ago. The annual celebration brings the legal community together to ask for guidance, strength and enlightenment in the process of administering justice. This tradition is shared in Washington, D.C., where the John Carroll Society first organized the event in 1953 and continues today with Justices of the Supreme Court, members of Congress, and other dignitaries and government leaders in attendance. All officials attend in their capacity as private individuals, rather than as government representatives, in order to respect the separation of church and state.

The celebration is appropriately named the Red Mass because of the red vestments (or robes) worn to symbolize the Holy Spirit in the early European celebrations. The traditional red vestments continue to be worn by clergy and many of the members of the legal community in attendance. To add to the pageantry, members of the legal community enter the Cathedral carrying red banners, representing the different legal organizations from around San Antonio. Many law students also serve in the procession displaying banners and bearing candles.

The Hon. Larry Noll commented, "I have been coming to Red Mass for more than 40 years. When I was in law school at St. Mary's, this was the one event all of the law students attended. It was a nice break from studying, but more than that, it allowed all of us time to reflect on what it was we were really learning." He went on to say, "The Red Mass is a time for all of us to take a step back and make sure we take into focus what the practice of law and judging is all about. It is all of our jobs to ensure that

.....continued on page 2.....



RED MASS, 2012, AT THE SAN FERNANDO CATHEDRAL, ALAMO PLAZA, IN DOWNTOWN SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS. PHOTO BY MELANIE RUSH DAVIS.

Study Abroad: China, offers hands on experience

Kerriann Britt, 2L
Contributing Writer

You receive your grades for the first semester of Law School. You breathe a sigh of relief to know you're still here. Now you have to make a major decision: how should I spend my first summer of Law School? There are plenty of options to choose from, which does not make the decision easy. Do you choose the public or the private sector? Do you go with criminal or civil? Do you want a big firm or a small firm? Do you intern at all, or just take classes in order to get ahead and have a lighter load during the school year? Do I possibly study abroad? For students at St. Mary's University School of Law, study abroad is a very real possibility.

St. Mary's offers two programs, one in Innsbruck and one in Beijing. When asked why he finally decided to go to Beijing over Innsbruck, 2L student Clement Hayes said, "I knew that China would be more of a growing experience. I also knew that China is the future and I will undoubtedly benefit from my experience." Rachel Moreau-Davila, 3L, said "The cultural experience, travel opportunity...[and] the exposure to the legal community in another country provides an incredibly valuable perspective." Professor Hu states, "the China trip provides a tremendous opportunity for students to see and experience the world's oldest and emerging country and its legal system in a meaningful way. Besides study in the classroom, students visit Chinese legal and government institutions, and observe Chinese law and practice first hand. Students will also meet a friendly people and see some amazing landscapes and culture. On a personal level, successful participation in the program will satisfy the law school's requirement for public international law credit."

Students who choose to attend the Institute on Chinese and Business Law have the chance to intern at some of the top firms in China. Some of the internships were paid, while others were not, but all provided students the opportunity to get hands on experience with a Chinese company. Students had the opportunity to intern at a variety of places, including China Law Info, King & Wood Malleson, Mary Kay China, Yingke Law Firm, and Jia Ping, to name a few. Among other duties, students had the opportunity to attend client meetings, give presentations regarding



CHINA STUDY ABROAD STUDENTS & PROFESSORS, CHINA, 2013.

doing business with America, and edit documents written in English.

Ever since the beginning of the program, internships have been offered. Slowly, the amount of companies grew, as more students with connections to St. Mary's University have graduated. For Example, Jia Ping, a human rights attorney in Beijing, was a student of Professor Johnson's and now usually takes two interns every summer. The CEO of China Law Info and Professor Hu are alumni of the same university in Beijing, Peking.....

.....continued on page 2.....

ALSO IN THIS ISSUE: RIO GRANDE SPRING BREAK & SUMMER INTERNSHIP, GETTING OUT OF THE LAW SCHOOL BUBBLE, INCLUDING VITA, FLINT FEST 2013, STUDENT LIFE--CHOOSING THE STUDENT ORGANIZATION WHICH IS BEST FOR YOU!

The Legal Minute Staff

EDITOR IN CHIEF

Lauren Anderson

CONTRIBUTING WRITERS

Amy Bresnen
Kerriann Britt
Sasha N. Kiger
Professor Thomas Madison
Coatlucue Molina
Nick Moore
Seth B. Sullivan
Delilah Torrence

FACULTY ADVISOR

Albert Kauffman

For suggestions,
 comments, concerns,
 submissions, and/or
 letters to the Editor,
 please e-mail

Lauren Anderson

at:

**thelegalminute
 @gmail.com**

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Legal Experience

Study Abroad, China...by Kierran Britt

...continued from page 1...University Law School. One of the Chief Counsel for Mary Kay China is actually a St. Mary's University School of Law alumni.

Francesca Di Troia, 2L at the University of Texas at Austin, speaks about how her involvement abroad has helped her after returning to America. "At every interview, the first question I am asked is concerned with China. Also, China teaches you to be very independent and show personal drive."

Kenny Lam, 2L, was one of two students selected to continue his experience in China after the school session ended by interning with Mary Kay China in Shanghai. Of the experience, he says, "Mary Kay was a great working experience. As a 1L, there are only so many things you learn about, but working at Mary Kay...opened up my eyes to International Business Law and International Intellectual Property. It was one of the best experiences I have ever had, and definitely helped broaden my horizons." International Business Law and Intellectual Property Law are two of the classes students have the chance to take while abroad.

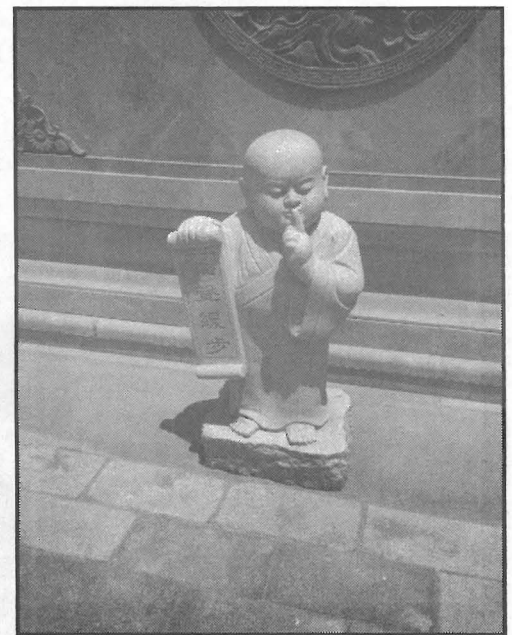
Classes are taught in English by either American or Chinese professors from Beihang University. This year, the classes offered will be Introduction to Chinese Law, International Business Law, and Intellectual Property Law. Law students from Beihang University also attend classes so that they can learn a bit of American Law. Classes are held in the mornings so that students can work at their internships, go sightseeing, or study during the afternoons. On some afternoons, there are special field trips to law related locations, such as one of China's Intellectual Property offices and Jung He, one of the top Chinese law firms.

Internship opportunities aren't the only reason why a student should elect to attend the China program. St. Mary's provides many opportunities to encounter the Chinese culture. The schedule permits two three-day weekends and one six-day break. These breaks provide students will ample time to travel farther outside of Beijing. Groups were able to visit Xian, Tianjin, and Shanghai, among other cities, during the breaks. This gave the more adventurous students a chance to explore China on their own.

During one of the three-day breaks, the school charts complimentary trips to the "must-see" Beijing monuments, including Tiananmen Square, the Summer Palace, the Forbidden City, and the Temple of Heaven. The Great Wall is, of course, on the agenda as well! All of the tours included a private bus, an English speaking tour guide, admittance into the monuments, and at least lunch.

St. Mary's provides ample support prior to arriving in China, as well. They set up your room reservations, get your visa for you, and correspond with your internship coordinator in China on your behalf. They were able to give suggestions as far as flights, but students were given the freedom to choose their own flight. This also gave students the ability to travel to other locations before or after their stay in China. One group of students visited Dubai, UAE before arriving in China. Another group spent a week in Japan after leaving China.

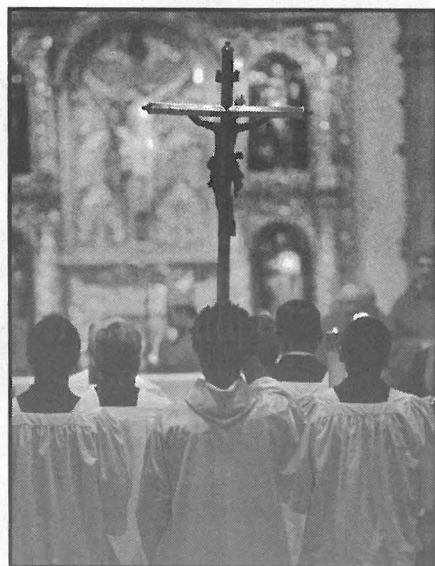
All in all, the study abroad program, directed by Professor Hu and Professor Johnson, is an amazing experience every student should take advantage of!



Red Mass, 2013...by Seth B. Sullivan

...continued from page 1...justice is done, and that it is not denied."

Noll's comments capture the spirit of Red Mass. This celebration is not only a blessing on the legal community, but also a time for those administering the law to reflect and receive a fresh perspective on their profession.



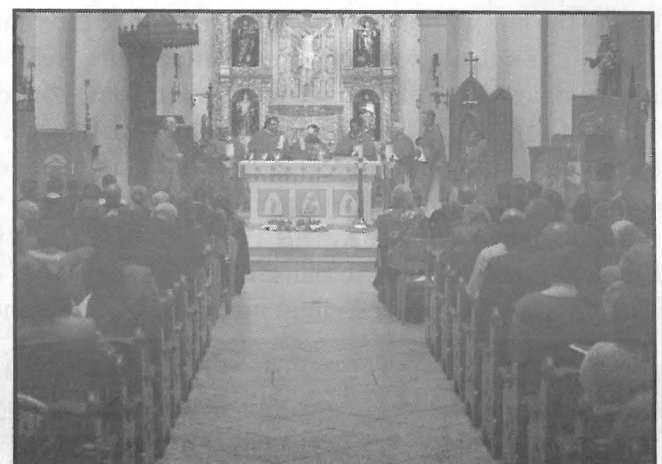
Members of the community from all faiths and backgrounds converge on the beautiful and historic space of the San Fernando Cathedral in downtown San Antonio every year to celebrate the Red Mass. Each year more and more people join in to make this a special tradition in the community. Local attorney Carla Riedl commented, "Red Mass is a great opportunity for people of faith to come together and pray for the legal community. The music is angelic, the prayers are powerful, and the reception after the mass is spectacular."

Red Mass in San Antonio is a unique opportunity for law students to witness the faith of members of the legal profession and attend a reception that enables them to meet many legal professionals. For those considering whether to come to Red Mass for the first time, this celebration is open to people of all faiths. Each year this celebration brings members of the legal community from various aspects of the law together for guidance in administering the common cause of justice. Local attorney Kevin Yearly, a St. Mary's alum and member of the Catholic Lawyers Guild, stated, "I can think of no better way for the legal community to ask for the guidance of

the Holy Spirit each year than to attend Red Mass together — it is the highest form of prayer."

The celebration is focused on a time of reflection and for blessing law students and the legal community as they begin the academic and judicial year. All members of the legal community and their families are invited to come join in the celebration of the Red Mass this October!

Seth B. Sullivan is a St. Mary's School of Law Law Ministry assistant for Red Mass, 2013. Red Mass 2012 photos are courtesy of Ralph Mawyer Photography®, San Antonio.



Rio Grande Valley Spring Break and Internship

Nick Moore, 2L
Contributing Writer

Earlier this year, I was desperately looking forward to spring break. My mind was entrenched in law school studies, and I was writing and researching my brief for Legal Research and Writing, or as we call it, "LRW." I wanted nothing more than a respite from the high intensity of school and endless reading it required. My plan was to return home to McAllen, TX, in the Rio Grande Valley, kick my feet up, relax, and possibly head to South Padre Island during that short week I would be home.

My spring break ended up being better than that, a lot better. Through Sister Grace Walle I discovered St. Mary's School of Law's spring break trips to Dallas, New Orleans, and the Rio Grande Valley. Every trip provides the opportunity for law students to get hands-on work in the legal work place as well as a chance to take part in a greatly rewarding community service. All the while Sister Grace coordinates the programs and makes an effort to visit every location herself.

I figured, "Why not? I'm headed to the Rio Grande Valley anyway." Law students Anietie Akpan and Maria Holmes headed the trip where we had a discussion with the South Texas Civil Rights Project, took part in the Proyecto Azteca community service program, and worked in the Wills Clinic with the Texas Rio Grande Legal Aid. Each experience progressively opened my eyes to the problems and legal issues that faced my hometown. The experience shattered my perception of my home in a good way and inspired me to give back to the home that had given me so much.

At the South Texas Civil Rights Project, one of the staff, Jaime Ortiz informed us of the horribly minuscule wages being paid to the alien workers at construction sites. These workers work all day in the Texas sun sometimes without any water breaks. Mr. Ortiz shocked us with one case where employees at a carwash center were being paid under a dollar per hour. The Project provides free legal service to low income individuals and offers internships for law students.

Proyecto Azteca was an opportunity for us to do some real hands on work and help poor communities in the Rio Grande Valley. Through Proyecto Azteca we worked on construction sites; building homes for low-income families so they can develop a neighborhood and community that gives people a real shot at life. The experience was more fun than work as we all enjoyed each other's company and became more adept with using a hammer and nail gun.

Potentially the most rewarding experience of the Proyecto Azteca program was when we got to throw a party for the children of a poor community. In the neighborhood where we threw the party, houses were put together with scrap metal, wild dogs roamed around, and the kids played in the street. Despite this dire setting, the families could not have been friendlier; inviting us into their houses while we set up the party. We set up stations for the kids where they were able to make fake tattoos, create snacks with Rice Krispies and Fruit Roll Ups, and eventually destroy a



hopeless piñata. The kids were left with huge smiles on their faces and pockets loaded with candy.

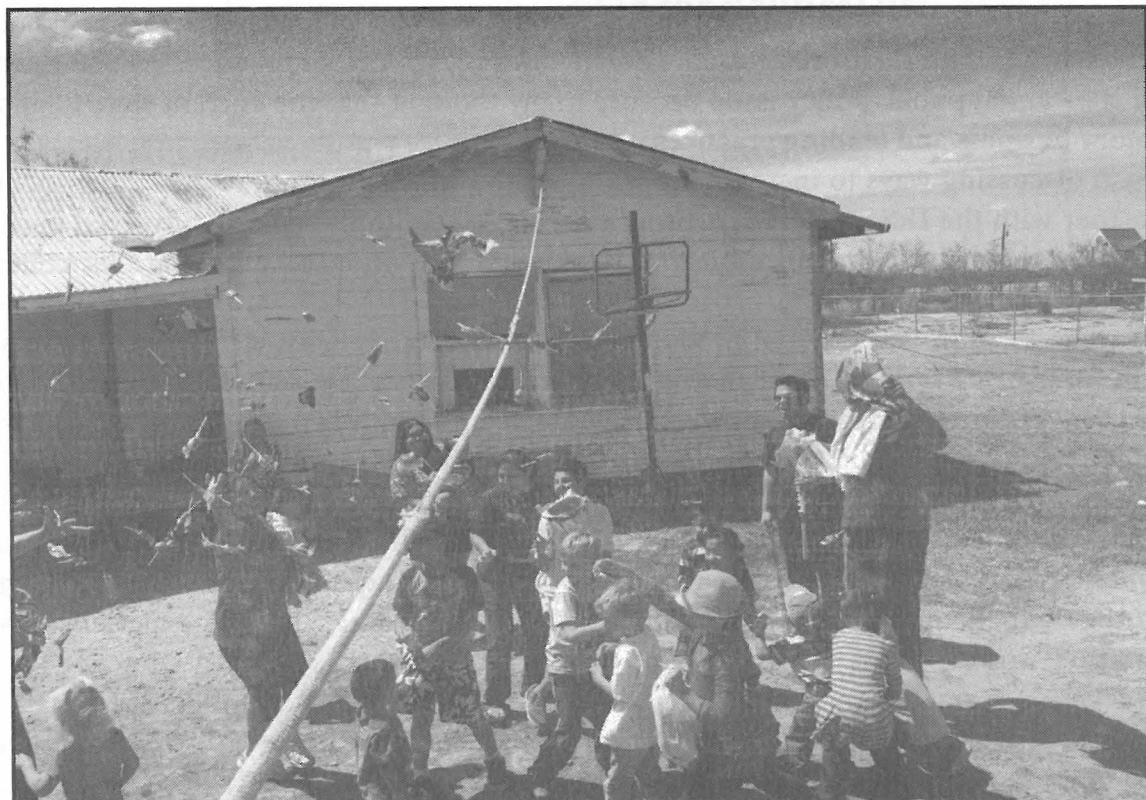
At the end of the week, after we had all bonded, made new friends and improved existing friendships, we got together for a big dinner. The dinner was hosted by Judge Israel Ramon Jr., the St. Mary's School of Law's Law Alumni President. Along with Judge Ramon were other alumni from St. Mary's School of Law who were working and practicing in the community. We feasted on botana platters full of fajitas, chicken, and nachos, sipped on margaritas, and shared in the stories of the alumni and listened to their advice.

Through the dinner, I was able to establish an observership with Judge Ramon at the 430th District Court in Edinburg, TX. During the summer I spent six weeks working alongside the judge, sitting in his court room, witnessing two jury trials, three bench trials, and several hearings. Beyond observing in court, Judge Ramon offered me several opportunities to prepare legal research and to engage in legal discussions related to hearings in his court room.

The observership was a front row seat to what attorneys really do day in and day out. Sitting in a court room every day, I would see undisciplined lawyers, who did not prepare enough research, and fantastic lawyers, who knew the law better than the back of their hand. The unpredictability of a jury was one of the bigger eye openers of mine, where their verdict would result opposite of my expectation. However, the biggest takeaway was a better understanding of the legal issues that persist in the Rio Grande Valley.

The 430th district court dealt with all kinds of legal issues: civil, criminal, divorce, protective orders, custody issues, juvenile cases, tax, and a large amount of cases dealing with undocumented aliens. Cases of the latter form typically resulted in deportation. The 430th also handles veteran's court and hosts panels for the grand jury where they produce their indictments.

The spring break program and the observership with Judge Ramon were a chance for me to see a real life use for my studies. The amount of St. Mary's School of Law alumni in the Rio Grande Valley was surprising and encouraging. I continue now with a sense of eagerness to finish my studies, but I learned that I do not have to wait until then to make a difference. St. Mary's School of Law provides many opportunities for students to make a difference, and from first hand experience I can attest that they can be rewarding, enlightening, and even entertaining.



Getting Out of the L

VITA, at the Center for Legal & Social Justice

VITA is St. Mary's University's Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Program. It is supervised by Thomas F. Madison, Ph.D., CPA, professor of accounting, and Chair of the Accounting Department, at the Bill Greehey School of Business, here at St. Mary's University. Dr. Madison answered some questions about the VITA program. Here is what he had to say...

The St. Mary's VITA site has been in operation since 2003 and is a partnership between the University, the School of Law, the Bill Greehey School of Business, and is supported in part by Wells Fargo and the IRS.

The St. Mary's VITA site is under the overall supervision of Dean Ana Novoa, JD, Professor of Law and Associate Dean for Clinical Education and Public Interest for the School of Law and myself. Rachael Rubenstein, JD, Senior Tax Fellow at the CLSJ, Nicole Monsibais, JD, Clinical Administration Fellow at CLSJ, and George Posada, JD, Clinical Fellow at the CLSJ are responsible for program operations.

Training for the St. Mary's site occurs in a class room setting on campus and is conducted by St. Mary's students and faculty.

Most college students, regardless of major, can be trained to do the types of income tax returns completed at the site with one day of training.

Additionally, VITA volunteers will learn to do their own income tax returns.

A major purpose of the VITA program is to insure that low income working families receive the income tax refunds and credits to which they are entitled, primarily the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC), which is a public policy initiative to provide additional income to low income working families without the necessity of creating federal welfare bureaucracies, and it can increase the taxpayer's disposable income by as much as 20-25%.

Most of the families served by the St. Mary's VITA site are residents of the neighborhoods around campus.

All returns volunteers prepare for clients are checked for accuracy by business school faculty, law school faculty, or experienced volunteers.

VITA is a tremendous community service activity which should be of interest to students interested in law, public policy, economics, sociology, ethical leadership, and corporate social responsibility because it gives them "hands on" experience in the actual implementation of public policy designed to foster a degree of economic equity in our society.

In the spring of 2013, the StMU VITA volunteers contributed over 1,600 hours to training and just over 4,300 hours to processing, preparing, and filing 1,200 tax returns with refunds totaling \$2,000,000. The program has more than doubled in size over the last 5 years and we expect even more demand for our services in the spring of 2014 since many low-income West Side residents will need income verification for applying for health care coverage under the Affordable Care Act.

The Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Program was created in 1969 under a congressional mandate to the IRS to provide assistance to taxpayers who could not afford paid preparers. The IRS has partnered with several organizations in order to assist targeted groups of taxpayers in need of substantial assistance. For example, under the VITA mandate, the IRS and the American Association of Retired Persons collaborated in the Tax Counseling for the Elderly (TCE) program to assist retired and elderly taxpayers, but the creation of the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) in 1975 has created the most substantial impact on the VITA program.

The EITC most closely resembles the negative income tax proposed by Nobel prize winning economist Milton Friedman and others in the 1960's. The negative income tax was seen as a means of providing economic assistance to the poor without the cost of creating huge federal welfare bureaucracies as mechanisms for delivering the aid. The rationale for the program was simple; income tax compliance created a way to identify low-income, working taxpayers for whom Congress wanted to provide economic aid, and the existing tax refund system provided a low-cost way to deliver the aid.

The EITC also lacked some of the weaknesses identified in other welfare programs. It targeted those who were poor, but who were trying to raise their standard of living by working. It was structured such that recipients would not be discouraged from working by the fear of losing more benefits than they earned in income from additional work. It was neutral with respect to family structure, unlike aid to dependent children, in that it was available to both single parent families with children as well as two parent families with children. The creation of the EITC represented a bold experiment in public policy. It represented a major public policy effort to provide a measure of economic equity without reliance on a costly and often suspect federal welfare bureaucracy.

Concurrent with the creation and expansion of the EITC, software companies began to offer tax compliance software that greatly simplified the completion of simple tax returns, including those that required an EITC calculation. As a result, private tax services realized that the EITC created a tremendous opportunity for their services, and began to market their services to low-income taxpayers. Their offering included electronic filing, refund loans based on the taxpayer's refund, and automatic deduction of tax preparation fees from loan proceeds. Due to the limited number of taxpayers that IRS volunteers could assist through the VITA program, the number of for-profit tax preparation services that targeted low-income tax payers increased substantially and increasing numbers of low-income taxpayers turned to tax preparation services for assistance with their returns.

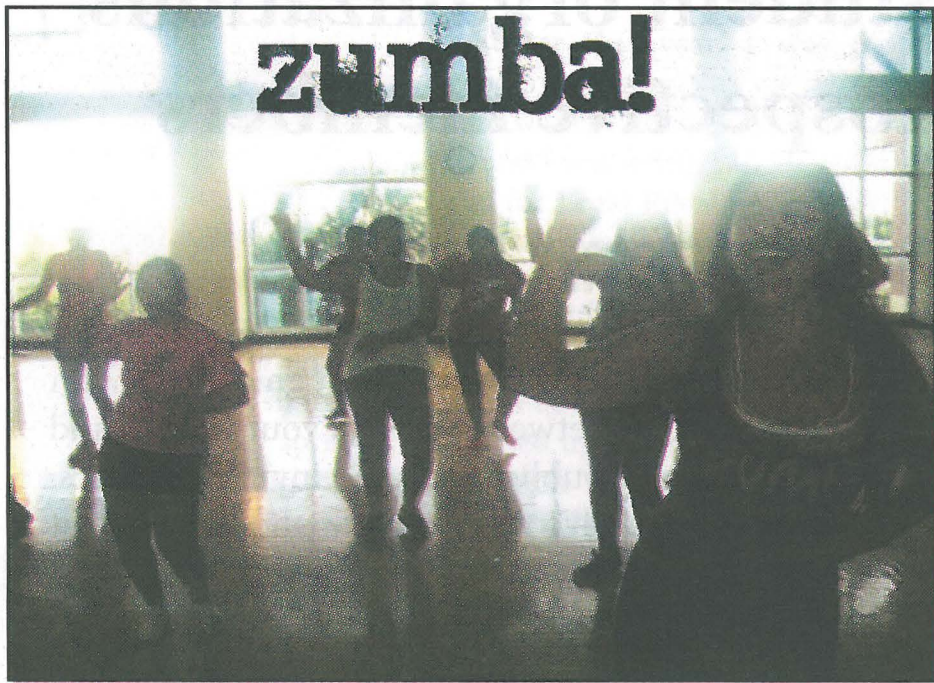
Although the tax preparation services marketing efforts created substantial awareness of the EITC among low-income taxpayers, they were criticized for taking advantage of the working poor with high preparation fees and refund loans with excessive fees and exorbitant interest rates. Some businesses began to partner with tax services in order to direct taxpayers' refund loans into down payments on larger high-interest, high-fee installment loans for things like electronics, used cars, furniture, etc.. These practices resulted in tax preparation for low-income taxpayers becoming a substantial public policy issue because many thought that the current state of affairs was causing the working poor to fall prey to predatory business and lending practices.

As an alternative, many communities began discussing ways to increase the ability of the VITA program to assist low-income taxpayers and formed community coalitions to partner with the IRS in the VITA program. These coalitions typically involved participation by municipal economic development departments, charitable organizations like the United Way and Catholic Charities, colleges and universities, and an IRS representative.

Through community volunteers, VITA programs create a substantial economic impact in communities with large numbers of working poor, recent immigrants, and the elderly. In San Antonio, Texas, alone the VITA impact in terms of tax refunds is approximately \$50,000,000 annually. College students, regardless of major, are a significant source of volunteers in many VITA programs because they are computer literate, fluent in English, and sufficiently educated to quickly learn how to do the income tax returns required for VITA clients. Obviously, VITA will appeal to business, accounting, and tax students but VITA should also appeal to students who are interested in public policy, public finance, economics, sociology, ethical leadership, and corporate social responsibility because it gives them "hands on" experience in the actual implementation of public policy designed to foster a degree of economic equity in our society. Students studying Spanish should be interested, because many of our clients are more comfortable using Spanish, and the VITA experience gives the student the opportunity to develop a vocabulary they would not necessarily develop in their course work.

The StMU VITA site has substantial participation from accounting, business, and clinical law faculty members such that our VITA volunteers always have a knowledgeable person to turn to should they face a situation of which they are unsure. Current volunteers at the St. Mary's VITA site include StMU alumni, Wells Fargo employees, law students, and undergraduate students, faculty, and staff.

Law School Bubble



at the Fitness Center

Cuatlicue Molina, pictured left and below, is an undergraduate student here at St. Mary's University, studying Political Science & Psychology. She teaches Zumba classes, at the campus Alumni Athletics & Convocation Center (AA&CC). Zumba is a dance-workout class, where participants often have fun and exercise to the sounds of salsa, bachata, merengue, and reggaeton music.

I asked **Coatlicue** about herself, Zumba, and why she would recommend the classes to ANYONE. Here is what she had to say...

Could you tell me about the Zumba classes?

They are amazing!

For how long have you been teaching Zumba?

I have been teaching since I was 14 years old. Of course, I have acquired practice over the years, in addition to losing a lot of weight! I started teaching Zumba to elderly people in México, then I proceeded to teach small kids in the U.S. at a daycare. Afterwards, I taught in an actual Gym in México for some years, and now I am the University's Zumba Instructor. I started teaching at St. Mary's the first day I started working on campus as a freshman. In other words, I have been teaching Zumba at St. Mary's for as long as I have been here--3 years approximately.

How are Zumba classes beneficial?

My Zumba classes are beneficial in NUMEROUS ways!

- 1. Any type of exercise causes the release of endorphins in your body! Endorphins are natural hormones in your body that encourage feelings of well-being, happiness, and satisfaction.**
- 2. My Zumba classes are intense but fun! Some have called them "Insanity Zumba" because of how much I push everyone, but always with a smile on my face! The people that go to them have a love-hate relationship with them!**
- 3. I honestly try to encourage everyone that goes to my class to be more self-confident by first setting the example myself: I give my class in a sports bra and sweatpants. Knowing that my belly is not the flattest or sexiest or hardest, I motivate myself every day by dancing away, exercising more and more to achieve my flat-belly goal, and in the mean time, not worrying about that "imperfection" about me. I constantly encourage others to do the same, to leave insecurities behind as they walk in my Zumba class.**

Could you tell me a little bit about yourself?

I am in love with exercising, lifting weights, dancing, eating healthy and any other fitness-related activity. I am all about fitness and health. I try to stay strong every day because I know so many girls look up to me, and I must stay strong for them. I offer free advice, tips, diet cleaning and routines when girls ask me for them. I was born here in the U.S. but I have always lived in México, therefore México is my home. I speak Spanish, English and intermediate German. I am a member of PAD [Phi Alpha Delta] Pre-Law Fraternity & I completed an internship at the CLSJ for an entire year. I want to pursue Law School when I finish undergrad. Afterwards, I want to get involved in the political life--run for office, and ultimately become President of México or the U.S....but more than likely México.

Why would you recommend that a student visit the fitness center and/or take a Zumba class?

I would definitely recommend that a student visit the FC and/or take a Zumba class with me because STARTING is the most difficult step to becoming a healthier version of you. Once you step out of your comfort zone and decide to explore the fitness world, it will become a healthy addiction. Working out or coming to my Zumba class will become harder and harder to stop doing simply because of that FANTASTIC feeling endorphins give you once you finish your workout, or even while doing it! Start today!

Zumba Classes are: Mondays, Wednesdays & Thursdays, from 5:30 to 6:15 p.m., on the middle floor, in the Movement Studio, of the AA&CC, the gym at St. Mary's University.



St. Mary's School of Law student organizations reach out to students & prospective members

THE FEDERALIST SOCIETY

The Federalist Society at St. Mary's School of Law is ready to stir up some exciting conversations and debates this year! Not all learning can be had from textbooks. Much is learned in law school, through contact with thinkers, judges, and civic leaders; but even more valuable is thoughtful debate between you and your friends and colleagues. The Federalist Society, by broadening the law school debate with its publications and invited speakers, provides a forum for a fuller inquiry into today's legal issues than you will receive from your textbooks. And, at our events, we provide our guests with FREE FOOD!!!

For more information on joining the Federalist Society or attending our upcoming events, contact Delilah D. Torrence and/or check out www.facebook.com/StMarysFedSoc.

THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION FOR JUSTICE

The American Association for Justice (AAJ) is a new student organization, sponsored by Professor Vincent R. Johnson. The organization works closely with the Texas Trial Lawyers Association to promote the interests of injured people and consumers who have been wronged by others. The AAJ will provide speakers on important issues and opportunities for networking with practicing plaintiffs' attorneys.

For at least 5 years, there has been no student association on the St. Mary's Law School campus that focuses on preserving, protecting, and restoring the civil justice system. Of the 35 Law School student organizations, none are focused on the role which plaintiffs' lawyers play in vindicating the rights of access to the courts and trial by jury.

The AAJ and the Texas Trial Lawyers Association (TTLA) pursue policies--in Congress and in the Texas Legislature—that represent the interests of injured people and consumers who have been wronged by others. In September, AAJ hosted a panel of eminent plaintiffs' bar attorneys—Jay Harvey and Glenn W. Cunningham—which was held in the Alumni Room in the Law Library. Over 70 students came to listen to the attorneys speak about the current state of medical malpractice in Texas.

AAJ will host another lunch event in the Atrium, located in the Law Administration building, on November 7th. The speakers who will be featured include Jared Woodfill, Harris County GOP Chairman and graduate of St. Mary's Law School, and Robert Talton, a former State Representative in the Texas House. Both speakers will talk about their practice as plaintiffs' attorneys and being involved in politics.

The American Association for Justice's officers include:

Amy Bresnen, **President**

Abel Aguirre, **Vice President**

Brendon Villaneuva, **Secretary**

Clem Vettters, **Treasurer**

Faculty Advisor: Vincent R. Johnson

For more information on the American Association for Justice student organization, please contact Amy Bresnen at 512.507.7602 or amy.bresnen@gmail.com.

THE TECHNOLOGY & INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY ASSOCIATION

The Technology & Intellectual Property Association of St. Mary's University is reaching out to those interested in a growing and revolutionary field in the legal world. We invite you to join and to participate in our events this year!!!

Be on the lookout for our Annual Poker Tournament and our Networking Event for the chance to meet Tech & IP attorneys currently practicing in the field of Technology and Intellectual Property Law.

For \$25, membership in the Technology & Intellectual Property Association gets you a free spot in our Poker Night and a t-shirt. To join, you can pay by check or cash to our St. Mary's Chapter President, Cornelio Morales, who can be reached at cmorales12@mail.stmarytx.edu.

We are looking forward to seeing you at our events!!

Best Regards,
Delilah D. Torrence
Tech & IP Law Secretary

HISPANIC LAW STUDENT ASSOCIATION

The Hispanic Law Student Association (HLSA) of St. Mary's University encourages all law students to join and benefit from the many opportunities our organization has to offer. We provide specialized support to the Hispanic community of our Law School.

The HLSA provides its members a variety of events, which, this fall, includes two general meetings with guest speakers from the Hispanic community in San Antonio. Our first general meeting included Justice Rebecca

Martinez from the Fourth Court of Appeals. Our second meeting will feature Senator Uresti, and it will be held November 6, 2013, at noon. All of our meetings will have food provided for members who attend. Also, HLSA has a number of social events throughout the year. This fall, we will host a Mentor Mentee Mixer at the Cadillac Bar (10/16/13 at 5:30 p.m.) and Hispanic Fest, at Dean Valencia's house (10/25/13 at 7:00 p.m.).

HLSA also sponsors and coaches a moot court team that will participate in a national competition, hosted in Miami, FL, this year. Tryouts for the moot

court team are currently being held and will include a brief writing tryout, as well as an oral argument tryout.

Philanthropic events are available all year. This year will include, but is not limited to, helping a local high school's mock trial team prepare for their upcoming competition, participating in a Christmas toy drive with the other St. Mary's School of Law student organizations, and hosting a canned food drive and volleyball tournament.

To join HLSA, members must pay dues of \$40 for membership, which covers the entire school year. It is never too late to join. Membership includes entrance to all the aforementioned events, eligibility to apply for Hispanic Law Alumni Association scholarships (last year five students each received \$1,000 to apply to their tuition or bar prep courses), as well as admission to our Spring events, which will include the 21st Annual Hispanic Law Alumni Henry B. Gonzalez Dinner downtown at the Marriott, an assigned mentor, a t-shirt, and access to the TWEN outline bank. We invite everyone to join this year, and we ask that you please add us on Facebook and TWEN to receive updates and notifications of opportunities.

The friendships and connections made through HLSA are invaluable resources that will last a lifetime.

Please feel free to contact any of this year's officers, which are as follows,

President, Sasha Kiger

Vice President, Victor Campos

Treasurer, Omar Gomez

Secretary, Erika Salinas

Historian, Phillip
Gonzales

Social Chair, Leslie
Vasquez

Sincerely,

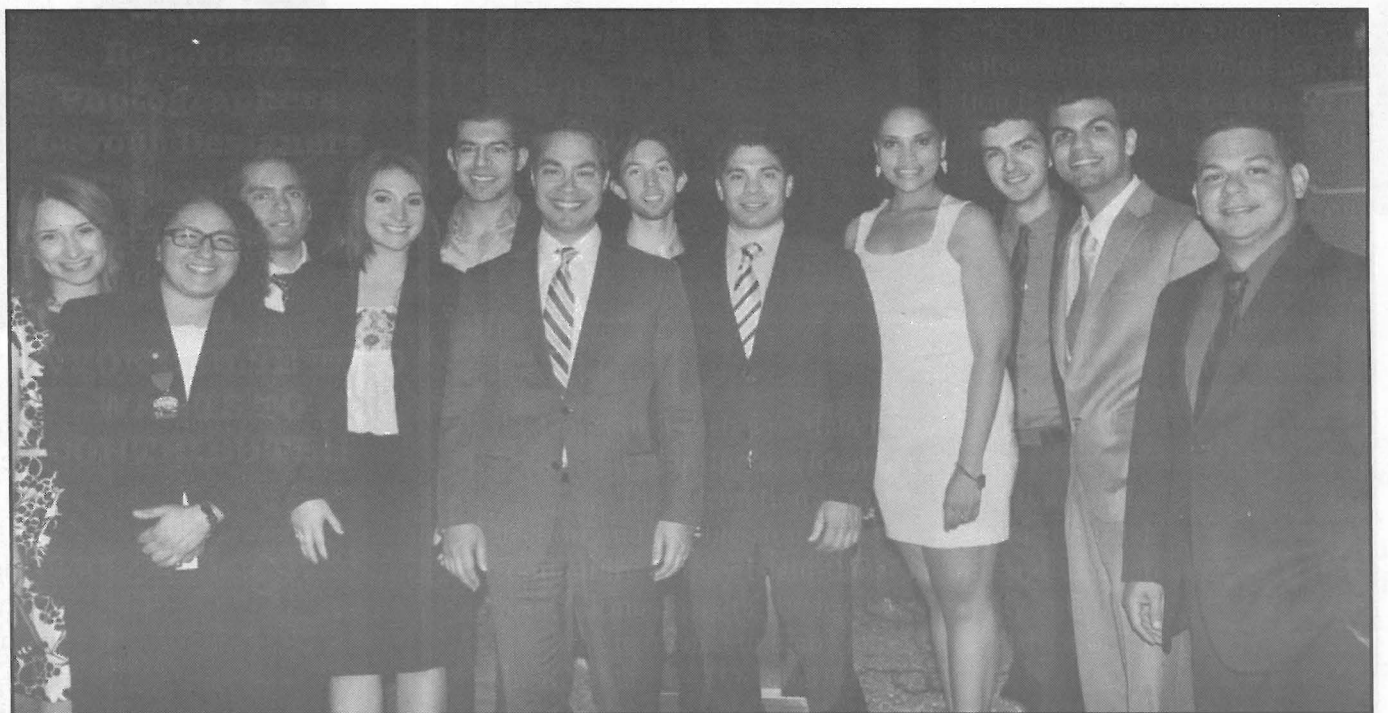
Sasha N. Kiger

St. Mary's University School
of Law Candidate for Juris
Doctor, 2014

President, Hispanic Law
Student Association
Teacher Assistant, Center
for Legal & Social Justice



20TH ANNUAL HENRY B. GONZALES DINNER WITH JUSTICE REBECCA MARTINEZ FROM THE FOURTH COURT OF APPEALS. PHOTO BY JUDITH CARRIZALES.



20TH ANNUAL HENRY B. GONZALES DINNER, WITH MAYOR JULIAN CASTRO, WHO WAS THE DISTINGUISHED HONOREE. PHOTO BY JUDITH CARRIZALES.

Staying healthy & fit, at the AA&CC, HLSA volleyball tournament

St. Mary's University offers many opportunities for campus recreation, including various activities at the Alumni Athletics & Convocation Center and intramural sports.

On the bottom floor of the AA&CC, students, staff, and faculty may exercise in the newly remodeled fitness facility, which has machines for cardiovascular health, as well as machine weights, free weights, and equipment for resistance training. If you like to climb and you have no fear of heights, you can try the rockwall, featured to the right, with the assistance of student instructors.

The bottom floor of the AA&CC also houses a natatorium, for swimming laps, playing water basketball, and Aquatic Zumba classes. This is also where the arena and concession stands for St. Mary's team sports games are, in addition to two basketball courts. Kent Royalty, LL.M., accounting professor, pictured bottom right, said "I enjoy playing basketball with law students in the gym."

The St. Mary's University intramural program offers a variety of sports, which are open to all students, undergraduate and law alike, staff, and faculty members. For more information on the intramural program, check out the website at www.im-leagues.com/StMaryTx to see current sport offerings for the fall.

Intramural games usually start around 4:30p.m. or later, depending on the sport. According to Leah Bowen, St. Mary's Intramu-

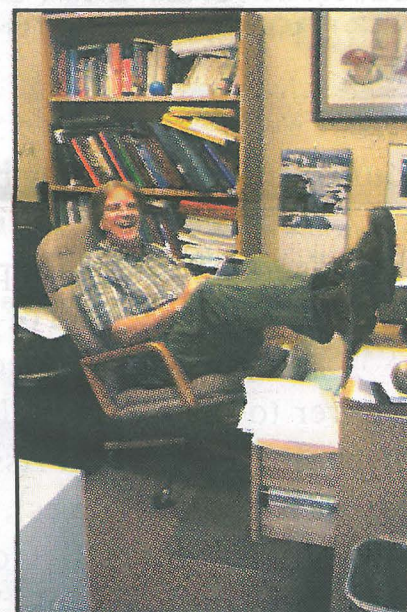


ral Coordinator, "We can accommodate scheduling requests to a certain point."

Bowen also notes that "participating in intramurals or in any campus recreation event is a great way to get out of the 'bubble' at the law school. Not only are you getting some exercise, it's a great way to de-stress and socialize with other students!"

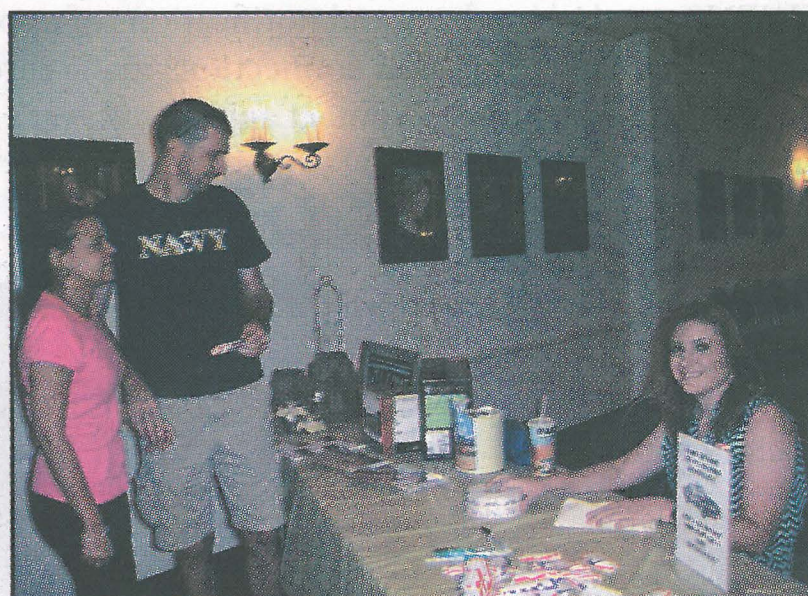
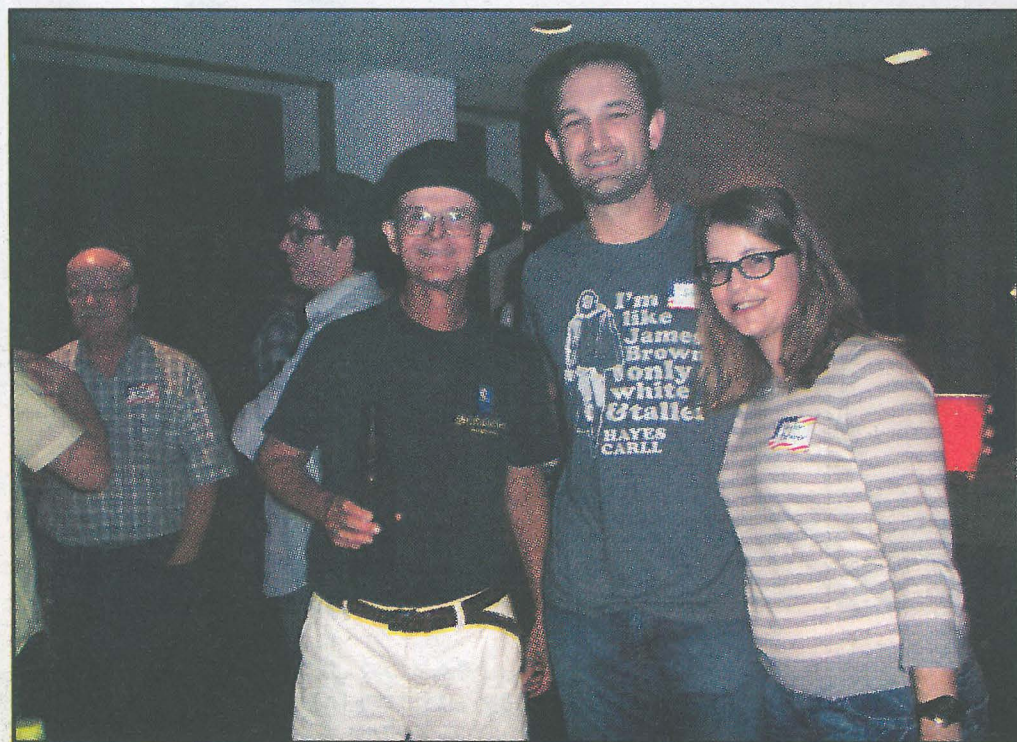
Many student organizations offer opportunities to get out and get active. The St. Mary's School of Law Hispanic Law Student Association hosts an annual volleyball tournament, at Fatso's, pictured to the left, which is also a canned food drive for the San Antonio Food Bank.

Law school can be stressful. To get through alive and well, get out, socialize, and have some fun in a healthy and productive way!



Flint Fest 2013

The annual Flint Fest has become an institution here at St. Mary's School of Law. Each year, Professor Richard Flint, pictured below, far left, hosts a party, shares his home-brewed beer with colleagues and students, and helps to raise money for scholarships for students attending the summer semester study abroad program in Innsbruck, Austria.



This year, Flint Fest was held at Our Lady of Grace Catholic Church, on the evening of September 27th. In previous years, Professor Flint hosted the event at his house, but attendance has grown over the years, so a larger venue was needed.

Flint Fest event hosts, pictured above, collected \$10 donations from each attendee who arrived, and each attendee received a raffle ticket. With their winning raffle tickets, many students won prizes, including a printer and movie tickets.

Throughout the evening, guests socialized with classmates and professors, imbibed and tried Professor Flint's beer, and dined on the bar-b-que smorgasbord. In addition to sharing his home-brew, Professor Flint also cooked and graciously provided the barbeque.